

REMARKS

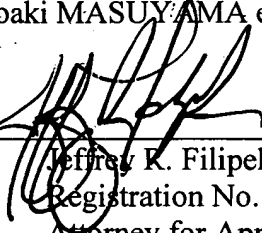
Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 23, 24, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroaki MASUYAMA et al.

By



Jeffrey K. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 20, 2006